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Annual Report

AS TO THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS

for the Year 1923,

BY

H. M. SPEIRS, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

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To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the

DISS URBAN COUNCIL.

I have the honour to present my **Nineteenth Report** as your Medical Officer of Health.

The area of your district is 3625 acres (exclusive of water).

Population 3521 (30th June, 1923).

Number of Inhabited Houses 954.

Rateable Value £15,429 15s. 0d.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate £47 12s. 9d.

BIRTHS.

Legitimate—31 Males, 31 Females, total 62.

Illegitimate 0 ,, 2 ,, ,, 2.

Gross total—31 ,, 33 ,, ,, 64.

Birth Rate 78.1. That for England and Wales 19.7.

DEATHS.

Infant Mortality 3. Rate 40.5 (England and Wales 69).

Deaths from all causes—Men 23, Women 31; total 54.

Rate 15.3. (That for England and Wales 11.6.)

Causes of Death at all Ages.

Causes of Death At all Ages.	1923.	
	Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	23	31
Influenza		3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System...	4	1
Cancer, malignant disease ...	3	
Rheumatic Fever ...		1
Cerebral Hemorrhage, &c. ...	2	1
Heart Disease	5	7
Arterio-sclerosis	1	5
Bronchitis		1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...		2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum		1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	1	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...		1
Acute and chronic Nephritis...	1	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	1	1
Other Deaths from violence...	2	
Other defined Diseases ...	3	5

RAINFALL IN 1923,

at The Cedars, Diss, in the county of Norfolk.

Rain Gauge. { Diameter of Funnel 5in.
Height of Top { Above Ground 1ft. 8in.
Above Sea Level 108ft.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		Number of Days with .01 in. or more	Number of Days with .04 in. or more
	Inches.	Inches.	Date.		
JANUARY ...	1.38	.31	5	16	9
FEBRUARY..	2.61	.44	18	16	14
MARCH	1.11	.22	23	12	9
APRIL.....	.80	.30	25	7	4
MAY	1.16	.17	9	16	10
JUNE	.61	.31	12	9	6
JULY	2.54	1.46	15	8	8
AUGUST.....	3.07	1.32	14	9	8
SEPTEMBER	1.80	.54	23	8	8
OCTOBER ...	2.99	.60	12	12	12
NOVEMBER.	2.15	.97	8	8	8
DECEMBER.	2.04	.55	27	13	12
TOTAL ...	22.26			134	108

WATER SUPPLY.

MONTHLY PUMPING RECORDS.

Month.	Quantity of Water Pumped.	Average Daily Consumption.
1923.	Gallons.	Gallons.
January...	932,000	30,064
February	903,000	32,250
March	956,000	30,838
April	1,006,500	33,550
May	1,052,000	33,870
June	1,234,000	41,133
July	1,530,000	49,354
August	1,118,000	36,064
September	1,051,000	35,033
October	1,084,000	34,967
November	*	*
December	1,171,500	37,790

*Averages cannot be calculated, owing to the Water being pumped direct into the Mains for six days, whilst the inside of the Tank was being painted.

INFANT WELFARE REPORT, 1923.

Nurse Campbell reports as follows :—

There have been 30 infants under one year, visited monthly and 125 over one year and under school age, visited every 3 months.

17 Mothers attended the Weighing Centre, some of them regularly every month, taking a great interest in the progress of their babies.

Under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, milk was supplied as follows :—To 6 Young Children, 7 Nursing Mothers, 1 Expectant Mother.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria .... 2.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

An Ambulance has been provided for non-infectious and accident cases.

SEWERAGE.

The Sanitary Inspector attended, as representative of the Council, a Sessional Meeting held by The Royal Sanitary Institute on Saturday, November 17th, 1923, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ipswich, when discussions took place on "Sewage Disposal" and on "Tuberculosis in Milk."

The result of the discussion on "Sewage Disposal" confirmed your Inspector in his views as to the satisfactory method adopted at Diss, i.e., settlement tank and treatment on land. The disposal here in this district has, during the present inspectorate, at all times been satisfactory.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Tabular summary of the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year. Total number of visits of Inspection 843.

SUMMARY.

Housing, Public Health Acts	103
Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act.....	76
Drainage	72
General Inspections, including scavenging	272
Market "	206
Factory and Workshops, special...	38
Infectious Diseases	8
Slaughterhouses	52
Dairies and Cowsheds	16
Total	843

Work of Sanitary Inspector under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1922.

NUISANCES.

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

Complaints received 3. Complaints investigated 3

Nuisances found on Inspection	30
" by Complaint	3
Total	33
Statutory Notices served for Abatement	1
Formal " " "	14
Number of Nuisances Abated upon official request ...	18
Total	33

SUMMARY.

Nuisances : Unabated		Nuisances :	
1st January, 1923	1	Number abated	34
Found on Inspection	30	Number unabated 1st January, 1924...	Nil
,, ,, Complaint	3		
Total	34	Total	34

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS, ETC.

The List of Adoptive Acts, Byelaws, and Local Regulations relating to the public health, in force in the district, with date of adoption, are as follows, viz :

1. Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885, 6th September, 1922.
2. Byelaws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures used for human habitation 31st October, 1922.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

CONVERSION OF PRIVIES, YEAR 1923.

Fixed to Removable Receptacles	10
Fixed to Fresh Water W.C.'s	15
Fixed to Waste Water W.C.'s.....	15
Total number Conversions during the year	40
Number of privy-vault type closets abolished during the year	27

Number of each type of Closet accommodation remaining at the end of the year :

Number of Privy Vault Closets : Fixed Receptacles	Number not known
Number of Pail Closets : Removable Receptacles.....	134
Number of Fresh Water W.C.'s	309
Number of Waste Water W.C.'s	75
Total number of Water Closets connected with the Sewers (both types)	384
Total number of Water Closets connected with the sewers (both types) including Houses, Factories, and Schools in the district	414

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging work is done by contract and includes the weekly collection of the contents of Pail Closets and Galvanised Sanitary Dustbins.

The Contract is for the term of three years dated from 1st April, 1923.

		Loads Removed
Number of Closet Pails emptied weekly (Removable Receptacles) ...	134	104
Number of Dustbins emptied weekly	423	376
,, of Dustbins (fixed type) emptied	76	105
,, of Privy Vault Closets emptied...	191	208½
,, of Cesspools emptied	9	21

YEAR 1923.

Total number of Loads Removed .....Excreta	333½
Ditto Ditto Ditto Dry Refuse	481
Total	814½

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Number of Workshops on Register 50.

Two Bakehouses have had structural repairs.

Two Workshops have been thoroughly cleansed.

One Workshop has had one new water closet provided.

One Workshop has had a pail closet abolished and a new water closet built.

Inspections made, Ordinary	61
Special	38
Total	99

FOOD.

INSPECTION OF PLACES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED.

The following are frequently visited, viz. :—

Fishmongers,
Fish and Chip-Potato Fryers,
Confectioners and Caterers
(including Ice Cream Vendors),
Meat Purveyors (home killed and imported),
The Market held weekly.

On the 7th August your Sanitary Inspector was called upon to examine a hind quarter of imported beef and found it was diseased. 78 lbs. was taken by the Inspector, being surrendered by the butcher, and after examination by the Medical Officer, an order was given by a Justice for it to be destroyed.

All the Bakehouses in the district are frequently visited and are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Two Bakehouses have been limewashed to the requirements of your Inspector.

There is one Underground Bakehouse in the district.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses in the district	4
Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed by the Local Authority	1
Total	5

One Registered Slaughterhouse has had the walls and floors repaired.

The License issued is only granted for the slaughter of pigs and sheep.

All are kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

A "Thresh" emergency disinfector is kept for disinfecting bedding, clothing, etc., when such is necessary.

Number of occasions when disinfection has been done	7
Number of Rooms disinfected	10
Number of Houses vacated temporarily and thoroughly cleansed	1

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

The Register

Number of Registered Retailers of Milk.....	11
" of Registered Producers of Milk	2
Total	13

Number of inspections 16.

One Cowshed has been demolished and reconstructed on modern lines with improved lighting, drainage and ventilation.

One Cowshed has been provided with a new floor properly drained.

Two Cowsheds have been provided with improved means of drainage, lighting, and ventilation.

Number of Cowsheds improved structurally by action taken under the Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885, and adopted 6th September, 1922, in force in the district, 4.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year, nil.

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Inspection (1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 95

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 24

(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous, or injurious to health, as to be unfit for human habitation 3

(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 87

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 70

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 11

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :

(a) By Owners 11

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....Nil

(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative by Owners of intention to close ....Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 12

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :

(a) By Owners 12

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .....Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders 3

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 2

(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit 1

(4) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... ....Nil

(5) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ....Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

H. M. SPEIRS, M.D., M.O.H. (Part Time).

GEORGE HANDEL JONES (Part Time Officer), Sanitary Inspector.

Other Public Offices held by him :—Collector of Rates.

Certificates and Diplomas :—

Sanitary Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute, by Exam.
Ditto (Advanced, Membership, Diploma).
Royal Sanitary Institute .... by Exam.
General Hygiene, Institute of Hygiene ..... ditto.
Ditto (Advanced Diploma) ditto ..... ditto.
Hygiene and Sanitation, British Red Cross Society .... ditto.
Food and Dietetics, Institute of Hygiene..... ditto.
Hygiene of the Home ditto ..... ditto.

MISS CAMPBELL, District Nurse, has charge of Infant Welfare Centre.

NOTES OF THE YEAR.

Three Visits have been made in company with the Medical Officer of Health.

Two Visits have been made in company with the Housing Committee.

Five Fixed Dustbins have been abolished and 8 Removable Dustbins substituted.

Twelve Visits of Inspection have been made to the Scavenger's Premises for refuse disposal.

Four New Baths have been fixed in houses.

One New Glazeware Sink has been fixed.

Three Sinks have had new trapped waste-pipes fixed.

One Cesspool has been abolished and the drains connected to the sewer.

Eleven New Drains have been constructed.

Five Drains have been reconstructed and provided with means of inspection and ventilation.

Three Pail Closets have been converted to three W.C.'s and connected to the sewers.

Thirty-five Vans used for human habitation have been inspected during the year.

Two New Glazeware Lavatory Basins have been fixed.

Ten New Pails to Closets have been provided.

I beg to thank my Sanitary Inspector, Mr Handel Jones, for his valuable and tactful help throughout the past year ; Mr Cooper for his summary of the Water Supply ; Nurse Campbell for her work in connection with the Infant Welfare Centre, and you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your unvarying courtesy and help to me in my work.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. M. SPEIRS.